

The Kite Runner

Close Reading Organizer & Quote Analysis

Chapters 1 – 7

Name: _____

Period: _____

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 1

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1** Betrayal
- 2** Redemption
- 3** Fathers and Children
- 4** Violence and Rape
- 5** Memory and the Past
- 6** Politics and Society



Summary							Your Analysis
The book opens in 2001, with the narrator (Amir) remembering something that happened in 1975, an unnamed event in an alley that "made him who he is today." The memory of this event has continued to haunt Amir for years despite his attempts to escape it. Amir explains that he received a call the summer before from an old friend in Pakistan named Rahim Khan . Amir thinks of Rahim Khan's voice as symbolic of Amir's own past "unatoned sins." Rahim Khan asks Amir to come to see him in Pakistan, and tells Amir "there is a way to be good again."	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir grew up in Kabul, Afghanistan, but he lives in San Francisco now. He walks around Golden Gate Park and watches two kites flying overhead. The kites make Amir think of his past in Afghanistan, and especially a boy named Hassan , a "kite runner" with a cleft lip.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 1

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
- ☐ 3 Fathers and Children
- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



That was a long time ago, but it's wrong what they say about the past, I've learned, about how you can bury it. Because the past claws its way out. Looking back now, I realize I have been peeking into that deserted alley for the last twenty-six years.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 2

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
For children in Afghanistan, Amir and Hassan would climb trees and reflect sunlight into their neighbors' homes to annoy them, or else shoot walnuts at a neighbor's dog with a slingshot. Hassan never wanted to do these things, but he would not deny Amir if Amir asked him, and if they were caught Hassan would always take the blame.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir lives in a mansion in the wealthy Wazir Akbar Khan district of Kabul with his father, Baba. The house is decorated lavishly and always filled with Baba's friends and the smells of smoke and cinnamon. In the living room is a photo of Amir's grandfather hunting deer with the old king King Nadir Shah.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Outside Amir's house is a little mud hut where Hassan and his father Ali live. Though Amir and Hassan play together every day, Amir has only entered Hassan's home a few times. Amir explains that neither he nor Hassan grew up with a mother – Amir's mother died giving birth to him, and	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Hassan's mother ran away after he was born. Amir is one year older than Hassan.							
One day Hassan and Amir were out walking when a soldier confronted them and claimed to have had sex with Hassan's mother, whose name was Sanaubar. Sanaubar and Ali had been a strange couple – Sanaubar was nineteen years younger than Ali, beautiful, and had a bad reputation. Ali, on the other hand, was a devout Muslim whose face was partially paralyzed, and who walked with a bad limp because of polio. People thought that Sanaubar's father arranged her marriage to Ali to restore her honor.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Some of the children mock Ali's appearance and limp, and call him <i>Babalu</i> , or Boogeyman. Ali and Hassan are Hazaras, an ethnic minority in Afghanistan that is looked down on by the Pashtun majority (Amir and Baba are Pashtuns). The Hazaras have more Asian features, while the Pashtuns appear more Arabic. Another division between them is that the Hazaras are Shi'a Muslims, while the Pashtuns are Sunni. Amir once read a history book about a Hazara uprising in the nineteenth century, and how the Pashtuns put down the rebellion with "unspeakable violence."	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir returns to describing Sanaubar, and he says that she mocked Ali's appearance just as much as the Pashtun children did, but that Ali never retaliated with anger against his tormentors. Amir says that Hassan was born smiling, and had a cleft lip. Sanaubar saw her son, mocked him, and then ran away with a group of traveling entertainers five days later. Baba hired the same nursing woman that fed Amir to feed Hassan, and Ali often says that there is a special kinship between people who "fed from the same breast." Amir says his first	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Word was "Baba," and that Hassan's first word was "Amir." Amir muses that perhaps everything that would later happen was already foretold by those two words.							

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 3

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Amir describes Baba and relates some memories of him. There was a legend that Baba had once wrestled a black bear with his bare hands. If it was anyone else Amir would have called it a fable, but with Babait was probably true. Amir describes him as a "force of nature," a huge man with a wild beard and hair.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Baba always succeeded where other people said he would fail. He had no training as an architect, but he had designed and built an orphanage and paid for it himself. Amir describes how proud he was when the orphanage opened, and how he was jealous when Baba would sometimes praise Hassan over Amir.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
More of Baba's successes included business – people thought he would fail, but he became one of the most successful men in Kabul. They also thought he could not marry well, but he had married Amir's mother, Sofia Akrami, who was beautiful, well-educated, and of royal blood. Amir	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Amir describes himself as the “glaring exception” to Baba’s successes – something Baba could not control to his liking. Baba saw the world in black and white, and Amir could not help loving him without fearing him, and possibly hating him a little too.							
One day at school Mullah Fatiulla Khan, a religious teacher at Amir’s school, taught the children that drinking alcohol was a sin punishable by damnation. Amir tells Baba this as Baba pours himself a glass of whiskey. Baba calls the religious teachers “bearded idiots” and says “God help us all if Afghanistan ever falls into their hands.” Baba explains that the only real sin is theft – to lie is to rob someone of the truth, and to kill is to rob someone of their life. Baba has a strong moral sense, but it is independent of the stricter Muslim rules.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir constantly tries to please Baba, but usually feels like a failure. He can’t help but think that Baba hates him a little for “killing” his mother in childbirth. The only skill Amir feels he has is reading and memorizing poems, and Baba looks down on such pursuits. Amir tries to please Baba by playing soccer, Baba’s favorite sport, but Amir is a terrible player. Once Amir goes with Baba to a <i>Buzkashi</i> (the national Afghan sport, similar to polo) tournament, but he cries when a rider gets trampled and Baba cannot hide his scorn for Amir’s tears.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Rahim Khan, Baba’s friend and business colleague, seems to understand Amir better than Baba. Amir overhears him encouraging Baba to respect Amir’s love of books, and to accept that he cannot make Amir exactly like himself. Baba says that Amir seems unable to stand up for himself, and he worries that he won’t be able to stand up for anything when he becomes an adult.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Baba says that sometimes he can't believe that Amir is his son.							

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 3

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

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- 6 Politics and Society



Because the truth of it was, I always felt like Baba hated me a little. And why not? After all, I *had* killed his beloved wife, his beautiful princess, hadn't I? The least I could have done was to have had the decency to have turned out a little more like him. But I hadn't turned out like him.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:



"And where is he headed?" Baba said. "A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who can't stand up to anything."

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:



Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 4

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
The story shifts to 1933, the year that Baba was born and Zahir Shah became king of Afghanistan. In that same year two young men went driving while drunk and high and killed a Hazara couple – Ali’s parents. The killers were brought before Amir’s grandfather, who was a respected judge, and he ordered them to enlist in the army. He then adopted the orphaned Ali into his own home. Ali grew up as a servant, but also as Baba’s playmate.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
They are still close, but Baba never calls Ali his friend and Amir never thinks of Hassan as his friend – their ethnic and religious divides seem too great. Nevertheless, when Amir thinks of Afghanistan he imagines Hassan’s face, and he remembers their childhood as one long playtime together. He describes some of their adventures, including watching a John Wayne movie and comparing him to the other Americans they had seen – the long-haired hippies that hung around Kabul.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>Despite their closeness, Hassan spends the day cleaning the house and preparing food while Amir goes to school in Baba's fancy American car. Hassan is illiterate because of his servant class, but he is fascinated by stories. Amir often reads to him in an old cemetery atop a nearby hill, under the boys' favorite pomegranate tree. In the trunk of the tree Amir had carved the words "Amir and Hassan, the sultans of Kabul." Amir enjoys teasing Hassan when Hassan doesn't understand a big word that Amir reads, and sometimes Amir makes up a meaning for it.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>The boys' favorite story is "Rostam and Sohrab," in which the warrior Rostam kills his enemy in battle and then discovers it is his long-lost son Sohrab. It is a tragic story, but Amir feels that all fathers have a secret desire to kill their sons.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>One day under the pomegranate tree Amir begins to make up his own story while pretending he is still reading out loud. Hassan says it is one of the best stories Amir has ever read to him. Amir is elated by this and that night he writes his first story, about a man whose tears turn into pearls, and who makes himself miserable so he can keep crying and become richer. The story ends with him atop a mountain of pearls, crying over the wife he has murdered.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Amir tries to show the story to Baba (who is talking with Rahim Khan), but Baba is uninterested. Rahim Khan, however, takes the story and offers to read it. At that moment Amir wishes Rahim Khan was his father, but then he feels immediately guilty.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>Later that night Rahim Khan leaves Amir a note that says he has a "special talent," and that the story has an impressive use of irony. He encourages Amir to keep writing. Amir is exhilarated by the praise, and he</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

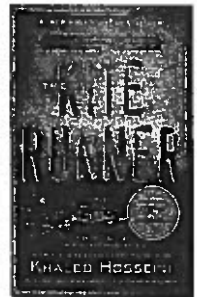
Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
wakes up Hassan, who is downstairs, and reads the story to him. Hassan says the story is wonderful and that Amir will be a great writer one day, but then Hassan wonders why the man in the story didn't just make himself cry by chopping onions. Amir is annoyed that Hassan thought of this and he didn't, and he thinks a cruel thought about Hassan as just an illiterate Hazara.							

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 4

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- ☐ 1 Betrayal
- ☐ 2 Redemption
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- ☐ 4 Violence and Rape
- ☐ 5 Memory and the Past
- ☐ 6 Politics and Society



The curious thing was, I never thought of Hassan and me as friends either... Never mind that we spent entire winters flying kites, running kites. Never mind that to me, the face of Afghanistan is that of a boy with a thin-boned frame... a boy with Chinese doll face perpetually lit by a harellipped smile. Never mind any of these things. Because history isn't easy to overcome. Neither is religion. In the end, I was a Pashtun and he was a Hazara, I was Sunni and he was Shi'a, and nothing was ever going to change that.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes:

- ☒ 1
- ☒ 2
- ☒ 3
- ☒ 4
- ☒ 5
- ☒ 6

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 5

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
That same night there is the sound of gunfire in the streets. Amir and Hassan are frightened, but Ali embraces them and says it is just people hunting ducks. Later Amir would learn that the gunfire symbolized the end of the Afghan monarchy – Daoud Khan had overthrown his cousin King Zahir Shah (while the king was abroad) in a bloodless coup. Daoud Shah instituted a republic and became president. Amir says that that night was the end of the old Afghanistan, though no one knew it yet.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir and Hassan distract themselves from a political radio show by going off to climb a tree, but on the way a group of boys attacks Hassan with rocks – Assef, Kamal, and Wali. Assef is a feared bully who carries a set of brass knuckles and loves to be cruel. Amir says that later he would realize Assef is a sociopath. Assef is one of the ones who mocks Ali, and calls Hazaras derogatory names.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Assef gloats about the new government, and says that his father knows Daoud Khan, the new president. Assef says the next time Daoud Khan comes over for dinner Assef will tell him about Adolf Hitler, and how Hitler was a great leader with the right ideas about ethnic purity. Assef says Afghanistan is the land of the Pashtuns, and he wants to purify it of the "dirty" Hazaras.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir tries to defuse the situation but Assef takes out his brass knuckles and says that Amir is making things worse by being friends with Hassan. Amir cannot help but think that Hassan is his servant, not his friend, but he immediately feels guilty for the thought. Assef is about to hit Amir when Hassan suddenly grabs a rock and aims his slingshot at Assef's face. Hassan politely asks Assef to leave them alone, or he will have to change his name to "One-Eyed Assef." Assef is shocked but scared, and he vows to get his revenge someday. The three boys leave, with Kamal and Wali amazed that their leader was humiliated by a Hazara. Amir and Hassan return home, trembling.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
For a few years after Daoud Khan's coup, life seems to go back to normal, and there is hope of reform and economic growth. One winter (1974) Ali calls Hassan inside, saying that Baba wanted to speak with him. Amir describes how Baba got a present for							
Hassan's birthday every year. With Baba is a plastic surgeon named Dr. Kumar, and Baba explains that he is his birthday present this year – Baba will pay for the surgery to fix Hassan's cleft lip. Amir is jealous that Baba would do so much for Hassan. The surgery is a success, and by the next winter Hassan's cleft lip is just a faint scar.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 6

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
Winter is the best time of year for the children of Kabul, as school is closed because of snow and everyone spends their time flying kites. Amir finds the icy city beautiful, and flying kites together is when he and Baba are closest. Baba takes Amir and Hassan to a blind old man who makes the best kites. He always buys the same kites for Amir and Hassan, but Amir wishes Baba would buy a nicer kite for him than for Hassan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The highlight of the winter is the annual kite-fighting tournament, where boys go to war with their kites by covering the kite strings in broken glass and trying to cut their competitors' kites. When a string is cut and a kite drifts away, boys called "kite runners" chase the kite around the city trying to catch it when it falls. The last fallen kite of the tournament is a trophy.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir says that Hassan is the best kite runner in Kabul – he always seems to know exactly where a kite will fall and just waits	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>as the other boys scramble around the city. One day Hassan makes Amir wait under a tree for a kite, though Amir thinks they are wasting time and will lose the kite.</p>							
<p>While they wait Amir tests Hassan's loyalty by asking him if he would eat dirt for Amir, but as he asks he feels he is being cruel. Hassan says that if Amir really wanted him to eat dirt, he would, and Amir is ashamed. Amir pretends it was just a joke, and at that moment the kite falls into Hassan's arms.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>One night soon before the big kite tournament of 1975 Baba and Amir are sitting by the fire, talking, when Baba casually says that he thinks Amir will win the tournament this year. The words feel like an omen to Amir, and he becomes determined to win the tournament and win Baba's love and approval – when he was young, Baba himself won the kite tournament. Amir thinks that if he wins, Baba will finally forgive him for "killing" his mother in childbirth.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>The night before the tournament Hassan and Amir are playing <i>panjpar</i>, a card game. In the other room the radio is on, with someone talking about foreign investments and getting television in Kabul. Amir promises to buy Hassan a color TV someday. Amir can't help pitying Hassan for his shack and servant status, but Hassan seems to</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>read his mind and affirms that he likes where he lives.</p>							

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 6

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

Themes Key

- 1** Betrayal
- 2** Redemption
- 3** Fathers and Children
- 4** Violence and Rape
- 5** Memory and the Past
- 6** Politics and Society



I was going to win, and I was going to run that last kite. Then I'd bring it home and show it to Baba. Show him once and for all that his son was worthy.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related
Themes:

- 1**
- 2**
- 3**
- 4**
- 5**
- 6**

Close Reading Organizer - Chapter 7

Directions: Read each summary entry and think about which themes listed in the Themes Key apply to it, then color in those themes in the Theme Tracker. Next, write a few sentences of Analysis to explain how the themes you chose apply to each summary section.

Themes Key

- 1 Betrayal
- 2 Redemption
- 3 Fathers and Children
- 4 Violence and Rape
- 5 Memory and the Past
- 6 Politics and Society



Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
<p>On the morning of the tournament, Hassan tells Amir about the dream he had the night before. In the dream the two of them were at Ghargha Lake, along with their fathers and thousands of other people. Everyone was afraid to swim because they thought there was a monster in the lake, but then Amir jumped in and Hassan followed. They swim out to the middle and everyone sees that there was no monster after all. They rename the lake "Lake of Amir and Hassan, Sultans of Kabul." Amir is nervous that morning and so he is curt with Hassan, calling it a "dumb dream."</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	
<p>It is a clear, beautiful day as the boys gather in Amir's neighborhood for the tournament. Baba and Rahim Khan sit on the roof to watch. Amir is so nervous that he almost wants to quit the tournament, but Hassan reminds him that "there's no monster," and Amir is again amazed at Hassan's intuition. Amir wonders if Hassan made up his dream just to comfort him. He does feel a little better, and they start to fly their kite.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
The tournament lasts for hours, but Amir (and Hassan, who controls the spool of string) do well and keep flying. One blue kite in particular cuts many of its opponents, and Amir keeps his eye on it. By the afternoon it is just Amir and the blue kite left in the running.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir prays that he might win and so redeem himself to Baba. Amir tricks the blue kite into a bad position and then cuts it, winning the tournament. Amir and Hassan cheer and embrace, and then Amir sees Baba on the roof yelling and clapping, and he feels that it is the greatest moment of his life so far. Hassan promises to bring back the kite for Amir, and as he runs off he says "for you a thousand times over!"	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir reels in his kite and accepts everyone's praise, but he wants to wait until he has the blue kite before he meets Baba. He imagines the two of them like Rostam and Sohrab, father and son locking eyes dramatically. Amir runs off to look for Hassan, and he asks some neighbors if they have seen him.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
One old merchant seems suspicious that Amir is looking for a Hazara, but he finally tells Amir that he saw Hassan going south, chased by three boys. Amir searches everywhere and finally finds Hassan in an alleyway, holding the blue kite – which Amir thinks of as the "key to Baba's heart" – and facing off against Assef, Kamal, and Wali. Amir watches from around the corner and doesn't interrupt.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Assef tells Hassan that they will let him go if he hands over the blue kite. Hassan refuses, as he ran the kite fairly and must deliver it to Amir. Assef mocks him and says that Amir would not be so loyal to Hassan if their positions were reversed. He says that Amir	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
thinks of Hassan as a servant, not a friend. Hassan states that he and Amir are friends, and he picks up a rock. He throws the rock at Assef and the three boys jump onto Hassan. Amir still doesn't cry out, and the older Amir, who is remembering this, thinks of how differently his life might have been if he had.							
The older, narrator Amir suddenly remembers Ali talking about a Hazara woman called Sakina, who was the nursemaid of both Amir and Hassan. Ali says that there "is a brotherhood between people who've fed from the same breast." Then Amir remembers going to a fortune teller with Hassan. When the fortune teller looks at Hassan's face and hands, he suddenly seems distressed and he gives Hassan his money back. Then Amir remembers a dream where he is lost in a snowstorm until a familiar hand reaches for him. In the dream he takes the hand and the snow disappears, and the sky is clear and filled with beautiful kites.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
The narrative returns to the alley. Assef and the others have pinned Hassan to the ground and removed his pants. Wali and Kamal say what Assef wants to do is sinful, but Assef says Hassan is only a Hazara, so it won't matter. The two other boys still refuse, but they agree to hold Hassan down. Assef raises Hassan's hips in the air and takes off his own pants. Amir catches a glimpse of Hassan's face, and it looks resigned to its fate, like a sacrificial lamb.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Amir then describes the first day of Eid-e-Qorban, a Muslim celebration to honor Abraham's almost-sacrifice of his son Isaac. On that day the mullah sacrifices a lamb, and Ali gives it a sugar cube to make death sweeter. Amir always can't help watching	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Summary	Theme Tracker						Your Analysis
the acceptance and understanding in the lamb's eyes.							
Amir again returns to the memory of the alley. He realizes that he has been biting down on his fist so hard it is bleeding. He makes his decision then – the decision of “who to be” – and he runs away. Amir muses over why he did what he did – he was a coward who was afraid of Assef, but it was also something worse. He had thought that the blue kite was his key to winning Baba's love, and Amir was willing to sacrifice Hassan for that love.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Fifteen minutes later Amir sees Hassan walking slowly past, and Amir pretends he has been looking for him. He can't help checking the blue kite for rips. Hassan is crying and blood falls from between his legs, staining the snow, but he doesn't say anything. He gives Amir the kite, and Amir wonders if Hassan knows what he saw. Both boys walk back and pretend nothing has happened.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
When they arrive home, Amir's reunion with Baba happens just as he imagined it would. Baba embraces him, and for a moment Amir weeps with joy and forgets what he has just done.	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Key Quotes Analysis - Chapter 7

Directions: Read each quote below and identify its speaker and the character(s) who relate to it. Then, circle the theme(s) listed in the Themes Key that apply to each quote. Some quotes may lack a direct speaker (such as if the quote is an unnamed narrator) or have no related characters. In those cases it is fine to leave the "Speaker" or "Related character(s)" fields blank.

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He stopped, turned. He cupped his hands around his mouth. "For you a thousand times over!" he said. Then he smiled his Hassan smile and disappeared around the corner. The next time I saw him smile unabashedly like that was twenty-six years later, in a faded Polaroid photograph.

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes:

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

"But before you sacrifice yourself for him, think about this: Would he do the same for you? Have you ever wondered why he never includes you in games when he has guests? Why he only plays with you when no one else is around? I'll tell you why, Hazara. Because to him, you're nothing but an ugly pet..."

~~"Amir-agma and I are friends," Hassan said.~~

Speakers:

Related character(s):

Related Themes:

- ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6

In the end, I ran.

I ran because I was a coward. I was afraid of Assef and what he would do to me... I actually *aspired* to cowardice, because the alternative, the real reason I was running, was that Assef was right: Nothing was free in this world. Maybe Hassan was the price I had to pay, the lamb I had to slay, to win Baba. Was it a fair price? The

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answer floated to my conscious mind before I could thwart it: He was just a Hazara, wasn't he?

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